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Week of April 27, 1992

FORMER JOB CORPS STUDENT APPOINTED TO INTERN
POSITION IN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OFFICE OF JOB CORPS

WASHINGTON -- "What your mind can conceive, you can achieve." These are the words of wisdom by Cynthia Parker, a former Job Corps student now working with Norma Selvera, deputy director of Job Corps.

Cynthia Parker, one of 16 children raised by her mother Rosa and her father Fred, who has been deceased 14 years, grew up on a farm in Hephzibah, Ga. She graduated from high school in 1978.

The U.S. Labor Department's Job Corps annually provides education & training for 68,000 disadvantaged students at 106 centers in 42 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Parker had a goal to reach -- to be the first in her family to attend college. She enrolled in Paine College in Augusta, Ga., but after completing one year she had to temporarily put her dream on hold because of financial difficulties. She began working at a fast food outlet to save money for college.

Never giving up on her goal, she signed up for the Job Corps program in Tuskegee, Ga. After 3 months there, Parker completed training in August 1981 and was encouraged to participate in Job Corp's college program. She enrolled at Tuskegee University. Job Corps paid for the first one-and-a-half years. The remaining years were financed by loans, Pell grants, and work study. She also worked part time as a domestic worker.

Parker received her B.S. degree in business administration from Tuskegee University in 1986. In 1987, she received her M.S. degree in counseling and student development.

Prior to her appointment at the Department of Labor's Job Corps, she was assistant director at an elementary extended day, a kindergarten before-and-after-school program.

She is a member of the American Association of Counseling and Student Development, American Association of University Women, Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, and the National Council of Negro Women.

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Parker will be assisting in the day-to-day activities in the office of the deputy director of the Department of Labor's Job Corps as an intern.

Parker hopes Job Corps will always exist because it is very much needed. She wants to give back to the program what she gained, and to stress her motto, "What your mind can conceive, you can achieve."

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